



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Pleads Guilty to Shooting Girlfriend and Then Self

-- shots fired while children and baby were in apartment --

WASHINGTON - On late Monday, March 22, 2010, a Southeast District man, Ricky A. Abbott, pleaded guilty to Assault with Intent to Kill while Armed in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia before the Honorable Frederick H. Weisberg in connection with the January 10, 2010 shooting of his girlfriend inside of a Southeast Washington, D.C. apartment, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today. Abbott shot both his girlfriend and himself in the head during the course of an argument. Both parties survived the shooting. Pursuant to the plea agreement, if accepted by the court at the time of the defendant's sentencing on May 21, 2010, the defendant faces an agreed-upon sentence of twelve years in prison.

According to the government's evidence, on January 10, 2010, at approximately 3:00 p.m., the defendant was engaged in a verbal altercation with the victim, the mother of his eight-month-old son. The argument took place at the victim's apartment, where the victim's nine-year-old daughter was playing with two other children in the living room, and the victim and defendant's son was sleeping.

During the course of the argument, the defendant pushed the victim down, pulled out a gun and fired. The bullet hit the victim in the head directly between her eyes. The victim closed her eyes as if unconscious.

The victim's daughter heard the gunshot and walked towards the bedroom to make sure her mother was alright. The defendant fired additional rounds, including a shot to his own head. When the defendant fell to the floor, the victim and her daughter fled the apartment. The other two children had already left the premises. At the victim's request, a neighbor went into the apartment and retrieved the defendant's son from the bedroom where the defendant was lying with a gun in his hand.

Members of the Metropolitan Police Department arrived at the apartment shortly thereafter. They found the defendant lying in the bedroom with a .32 caliber magnum revolver in his hand. The revolver had 3 expended rounds, 1 misfired round, and one live round in the cylinder.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Detective Dan Lewis, the lead detective on the case, and Crime Scene Officer Kenneth Bryant. Finally, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to legal assistant Charmonique Price and paralegal Jason Manuel for their support in the investigation of the case; Victim Advocate Shauna Moore for her compassionate assistance to the victim; and Assistant U.S. Attorney Bridget Fitzpatrick, who investigated the case.

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